

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

1. Name of proposed project. **Centralia Mining West Field Exploration**
2. Name of Applicant : **Dept. of Natural Resources/TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC**
3. Address: **P.O. Box 280
Castle Rock, WA. 98611**

Phone: **360-577-2025**

Representative: **Michelle Metcalf**

4. Date checklist prepared: **July 26, 2004**
5. Agency Requesting Checklist: **DNR**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing if applicable):

September 1, 2004

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

Yes, depending upon the findings of the test holes, additional holes may be required in the future to determine the location of the coal vein.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources Habitat Conservation Plan, dated September 1997 and Washington State Department of Natural Resources Forest Practice Application (FPA) number 2910430.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

Yes. A Land Use License for use of State land is pending the completion of SEPA review.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Department of Natural Resources Forest Practices Application (FPA) number 2910430 will be required for skid trail and drill pad construction.

11. Give brief complete description of your proposal including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

TransAlta is proposing to do exploratory drilling on state land to determine the presence of coal. The proposal is to construct temporary skid trails sufficient in width to get core drill rigs to pre-

located drill sites. Skid trails will be approximately 12 feet wide and have culverts installed where needed per the Forest Practice Rules. The temporary skid trails will be used for 2-3 days for drilling operations. Once drilling operations are complete, the fill will be pulled back and trails will be water-barred and grass seeded. Depending upon the contractor, most of the core drills are skid mounted and are pulled into position by a dozer. The pads are normally less than 50 ft x 50 ft and will look like logging landings. Usually there is a skid mounted water tank and a small skid with the "drill steel" also on the pad site. The water tank is used to cool the drill. Water is trucked to as close as possible to the drill site and is often "piped" to the water tank.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project including a street address if any, and section, township, and range if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit application related to this checklist.

For this phase of the project there are 13 holes scattered over State ownership in Sec. 5,6,7 & 8 all in T14N, R01W. 4 of the 13 holes are adjacent to existing roads or trails. All pad locations are marked with yellow plastic tags and orange ribbons. Approximate centerlines of the trails are marked with blue flagging.

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other..

Hilly

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site?

Slopes are less than 60%.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Buckpeak silt loam and Centralia loam appear to be the major soil types.

- d. Are there surface indicators or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity?. If so describe.

No indicators of unstable soils. The Buckpeak soils will slide if over steepened.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

There will only be enough cut and fill to construct the skid trails.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

No, skid trails will be water-barred upon completion of use and seeded prior to the wet season.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

None

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Skid trails will be laid out to avoid potentially unstable slopes. The trails will have a maximum grade of 20%. Skid

trails will be water barred where grades exceed 10% and total disturbed area will be grass seeded. Silt fences, hay or mulch will be applied as necessary.

2. AIR

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

The drills are powered by small diesel engines, so there will be some exhaust. There may be dust from the construction and use of the skid trails.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

None

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3. WATER

- a. Surface

1. Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

There are several type 4 & 5 streams that the existing roads cross. All stream crossings will involve installation of temporary culverts. Streams eventually feed into Little Hanaford Creek.

2. Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes. Proposed trails cross two type 5 waters. The temporary skid trails are laid out to avoid water impact as much as possible. Those streams that must be crossed will have temporary culverts installed. Part of the exploration program is to determine if the coal seams are near known water drainages. There are no holes in any typed streams.

3. Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

None

4. Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Depending upon the depth of the hole, some amount of water will be required to create the slurry required to cool the drill bit. The water will be trucked in and then "piped" via a hose-line to the slurry tank.

5. Does the proposal lie within a 100-year flood plain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No

6. Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No wastes discharged.

b. Ground

1. Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No ground water will be withdrawn or water discharged to ground water. The cooling water used for the drilling process will be trucked or piped in to the site. This water will be recycled during the drilling process. The water is captured in a basin, pumped back into the tank, and reused.

2. Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: domestic sewage, industrial containing the following chemicals; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None

c. Water Run-off (including storm water):

No run-off, sites will be bare soil.

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1. Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

None expected, pads will be constructed to minimize the possibility of water pooling on the pad. Run off will be onto adjacent forest floor.

2. Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any.

The temporary skid trails will be laid out to avoid water impacts as much as possible. Those streams that must be crossed will have temporary culverts installed. Silt fences, hay or mulch will be applied as necessary. All water used for the drilling process will be trucked or piped in to the drill pad and recycled throughout the process.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

Deciduous tree: Alder, maple, aspen, other.

evergreen tree: Fir, cedar, pine, hemlock, other.

shrubs: salal, Oregon grape, Red huckleberry.

grass: multiple types

pasture:

crop or grain: none

wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, skunk cabbage, other.

water plants: water Lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other.

other types of vegetation: Most types associated with western Washington woodlands.

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Fir trees and various ground vegetation will be removed where skid trails and drill pads are constructed.

c. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

There are no threatened or endangered plant species known to be on or near the site.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, of any:

Erosion control seeding will be done with a mix of native grasses.

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

Birds.: Hawk, Heron, Eagle, Songbirds, Other

Mammals: Deer, coyote, and other species

associated with timber land.

Fish: Bass, Salmon, Trout, Herring, Shellfish, Other

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

This proposal is located on Department of Natural Resources lands covered by a Habitat Conservation Plan. The HCP is a long-term land management plan to conserve threatened and endangered species including the northern spotted owl. Per FPA Traxs Report, there are Pacific Mudminow's in Sect. 7 of T14N, R1W.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The project area is within the Pacific flyway, but is not an area of resting or feeding.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

There will be no use of local water for this proposal. All water used for the drilling process will be trucked in and recycled. Sediment delivery will be minimized by avoiding all potentially unstable slopes and keeping temporary skid trails to a maximum of 20% grade. All skid trails have been predetermined to limit amount of impacts to riparian areas.

6. Energy and Natural Resources.

- a. What kind of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing,

None

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- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None

7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill of hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, explain.

No

1. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None

2. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

None

- b. Noise

1. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operations, other)?

None

2. What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operations, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

There will be some noise associated with the construction of the temporary skid trails and drill pads. Each drill site should be occupied for less than 3 days.

3. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Timber production

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe .

No

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

None

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- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Long Term Forestry

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Forestry – Timber Production

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

N/A

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

No

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- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plan, if any:

None

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None

- b. Approximately how many units, if any would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any.

None

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

There are no buildings to be constructed.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any.

None

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11. Light and Glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No, there are no permanent installations.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any.

None

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Some limited hunting on State property. All roads are closed, and the gates are locked.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No, might improve recreation by allowing more access.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational opportunities to be provided

None

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

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a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

No

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any.

None

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plan, if any.

In general the area is accessed by Little Hanaford County road and closed DNR access roads.

b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop.

No

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

None

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No

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- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? if so, generally describe.

No

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Probably less than 5. Shift change 7am and 7pm.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any.

None

15. Public Service

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site.

electricity telephone
natural gas sanitary sewer
refuse service septic system
water Other: _____

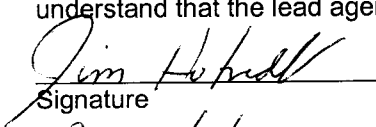
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

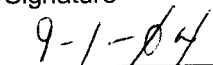
None

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C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.


Signature


Date submitted